

CLAY COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Tuesday, April 14, 2015

8:30 a.m.

County Board Room – 3rd Floor – Courthouse

M I N U T E S

The Clay County Board of Commissioners met in regular session with Commissioners Campbell, Gross, Ingersoll, and Mongeau present. Commissioner Weyland was absent. County Administrator Brian C. Berg, Chief Assistant County Attorney Jenny Samarzja, and Senior Administrative Assistant Vicki Reek were also present.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

On motion by Campbell, seconded by Mongeau, and unanimously carried, the agenda was approved with the addition of an update regarding Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) affecting turkey operations.

EXECUTION OF AMENDMENT TO JOINT POWERS AGREEMENT FOR
RED RIVER REGIONAL DISPATCH CENTER

By consent agenda, the Board authorized execution of the Joint Powers Agreement for the Red River Regional Dispatch Center which reflects changes wherein Cass County, ND now collects and receives all of the 911 funds from phones in the county. The cities of Fargo and West Fargo no longer collect 911 fees and thus no longer will be responsible for costs associated with the RRRDC.

REVISION OF PROPOSED 2015 HIGHWAY EQUIPMENT PURCHASE

By consent agenda, the Board acknowledged and approved a change in the model number for two mowing tractors originally approved for purchase March 17, 2015 (old model number 6140R, new model number 6145R). The total of the purchase remains \$151,318 after trade-in.

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

There were no citizens present who wished to address the Board.

APPROVE PAYMENT OF BILLS AND VOUCHERS

On motion by Ingersoll, seconded by Mongeau, and unanimously carried, the bills and vouchers were approved for payment.

UPDATE AND INFORMATION RE: MIGRATION OF POLICE/FIRE RADIO
COMMUNICATIONS TO THE PUBLIC SAFETY STATEWIDE
ARMER (ALLIED RADIO MATRIX FOR EMERGENCY RESPONSE) SYSTEM

Lt. Bryan Green, Clay County Emergency Manager, and Brian Zastoupil, Red River Regional Dispatch Center Radio System Coordinator, were present to provide an update on the planning process with respect to the migration of police/fire radio communications to the ARMER system (Allied Radio Matrix for Emergency Response). Lt. Green reported that 85 of 87 Minnesota counties are on the system, and Minnesota has 324 tower sites. Grant

funds will be sought for the various aspects of the system (console, control stations, connectivity, project management, etc.). A time line was presented, anticipating a switch over of the system in 2017.

On motion by Campbell, seconded by Ingersoll, and unanimously carried, the Board confirmed that all mobile and portable radio equipment (user equipment) required for ARMER system implementation will be the responsibility of each agency in Clay County.

HIGHLY PATHOGENIC AVIAN INFLUENZA AFFECTING TURKEY OPERATIONS

Emergency Manager Lt. Bryan Green reported that 19 turkey operations in Minnesota, North Dakota and South Dakota are experiencing Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) outbreaks. The U.S. Department of Agriculture is responsible for incident control. Clay County staff have notified the main producers in the County, and will establish quarantine zones, control zones, and monitoring zones, if and when necessary.

APPROVE CREDIT CARD COMPANY CHANGE FOR VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS

In October, 2014, the County Board approved contracting with SwervePay, LLC for the County's needs in processing credit card payments for various departments. The integration with SwervePay did not develop due to security issues. It is now requested that the County contract with Value Payment Systems, which has a good history with other counties, provides better reporting, and will pass on payments in a more timely manner.

On motion by Mongeau, seconded by Campbell, and unanimously carried, the Board authorized execution of the necessary documents to contract with Value Payment Systems to process credit card payments for various County departments.

REQUEST TO INCREASE CURRENT HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT POSITION TO FULL TIME EQUIVALENT

County Engineer David Overbo requested the Board's approval to increase the current Highway Administrative Assistant position from .5 FTE to 1.0 FTE. He noted that the Highway Tracking Committee recommended approval of the request due to the increased workload, permitting program duties, staffing the phone, walk-in traffic, etc.

On motion by Ingersoll, seconded by Campbell, and unanimously carried, the Board approved increasing the Highway Administrative Assistant position to 1.0 FTE.

APPROVAL OF CONSTRUCTION BIDS FOR CSAH 18, 11 AND 52

Bids were opened March 3, 2015 for the paving projects on CSAH 18 (tied to the bridge work on CSAH 11) and the paving project on CSAH 52 by Barnesville. A total of three bids were received for each project.

On motion by Campbell, seconded by Mongeau, and unanimously carried, the Board awarded the CSAH 52 project to the low bidder, Knife River Materials, for their bid of \$2,920,298.53, as recommended by County Engineer David Overbo.

On motion by Campbell, seconded by Mongeau, and unanimously carried, the Board awarded the CSAH 18 project to Central Specialties for their low bid of \$3,285,172.79, plus \$269,112.18 for the bridge approach work on CSAH 11.

APPROVAL OF AGREEMENT WITH CITY OF BARNESVILLE FOR SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL PROJECT, SP 14-591-006

On motion by Mongeau, seconded by Campbell, and unanimously carried, the Board authorized execution of the agreement with the City of Barnesville for the Safe Routes to School project, SP 14-591-006, whereby Clay County will sponsor the project.

APPROVAL OF AMENDMENT WITH PARAS CONTRACTING RE: BARNESVILLE SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL PROJECT, SP 14-591-006

County Engineer David Overbo informed the Board that this amendment is redundant due to the inclusion of the pertinent data in the original agreement with the City of Barnesville.

DISCUSSION RE: POSSIBLE LAND SALE – FELTON PRAIRIE PARCELS

Planning & Environmental Programs Director Tim Magnusson presented a draft resolution in response to the Department of Natural Resources' interest in purchasing County owned property (254 acres - All of fractional Section 31, Township 142 North, Range 45 West – Hagen Township), more commonly known as part of the Felton Prairie. Adoption of the resolution would allow DNR to conduct an appraisal of the property, while not obligating the County to sell. DNR's acquisition of the property would allow for conservation of the fragile ecosystem, harvesting of native plant seed, protecting the environmental value, etc.

Considerable discussion took place regarding the numerous aspects of a potential sale of the property: Felton Prairie Stewardship Plan Committee's desire to protect the calcareous fens and pristine native prairie; gravel resources; No Net Gain of public land (is in public ownership already); Payment In Lieu of Tax payments; sale of the property to the general public to get it back on the tax rolls; highest and best use of the property; etc.

Chief Assistant County Attorney Jenny Samarzja recalled that the Felton Prairie Stewardship Committee felt this parcel is so environmentally fragile that the County should not put it up for public sale. Public ownership would remove all protection of the calcareous fens and the pristine native prairie. She added that previously, deed restrictions were in place, but recent legislation changes allow for liquidation of the property.

Commissioner Ingersoll moved that the resolution be adopted, and the motion died for lack of a second.

Commissioner Campbell felt that if there are no restrictions on the use of the property, it should be offered to any willing buyer, including the DNR. However, if there are gravel resources, it should be retained.

Mr. Magnusson stated that DNR wants to acquire the property due to the threatened and endangered species on the land. He added that it is one of the finest pieces of dry prairie in the state. He felt that if there is gravel on the parcel, the County should keep it.

The Board recommended that the County Owned Property Committee meet to discuss the matter, and that first and foremost, gravel resources should be protected.

COMMITTEE REPORTS/COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR UPDATE

Commissioner Ingersoll attended a meeting regarding the Churches United Project at the request of the Moorhead Planning Commission.

Commissioner Mongeau toured the Juvenile Center building, attended the DiSC training event, and the FM Diversion Land Management and Extension Committees.

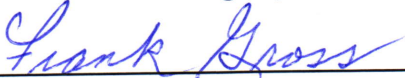
Commissioner Campbell attended meetings of the Highway Tracking Committee, Solid Waste Advisory Committee, FM Diversion meetings, and Corrections Facility Design & Construction meeting with Klein McCarthy Architect Scott Fetting.

Commissioner Gross attended meetings of the Highway Tracking Committee, Extension, Churches United Open House, Cromwell Township, Hitterdal City Council, and Highland Grove Township.

County Administrator Brian C. Berg read a communication from the Department of Human Services indicating that the Social Services Department's financial reporting for 2014 was in perfect order. He attended meetings of the Highway Tracking Committee, FM Diversion Land Management, Public Health/Detox, Corrections Facility Design & Construction Committee, a workshop for employee complaints and bullying, and DiSC training. He informed the Board that the Assessor's Office is conducting Open Book Evaluation Appeals.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 10:35 a.m.



Frank Gross, Vice Chair
Clay County Board of Commissioners



Brian C. Berg, County Administrator